

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL
MICHELE K. LAMONTAGNE

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Michele K. LaMontagne, who currently serves as Chief of Staff for the New Mexico Air National Guard and was recently promoted to Brigadier General.

Brig. Gen. LaMontagne began her military career as a student at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. Right after graduation, she set in motion her interest in aircraft and munitions maintenance during an officer course at Chanute Air Force Base in Illinois. When she was being commissioned, she had to select the job she would eventually like to do. After speaking with officers about the opportunities to lead as many people as possible, they recommended maintenance.

Her assignments, over the last 24 years, have taken her to South Carolina, Republic of Korea, Nevada, Colorado and finally Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico. At each of these bases, she served primarily in maintenance operations, eventually becoming a Maintenance Squadron Commander and a Wing Inspector General for the New Mexico Air National Guard.

In 2012, Brig. Gen. LaMontagne served as Director of Staff for the New Mexico Air National Guard, was promoted to Director of Support, Maintenance Group Commander and today serves as Chief of Staff. Her responsibilities include planning and executing employees during contingency and domestic operations in federal and state emergencies and developing positions and recommendations on issues, including mission requirements, placement of units and future missions.

Throughout her career, Brig. Gen. LaMontagne has received many awards and decorations including a Meritorious Service Medal, an Air Force Commendation Medal, a National Defense Service Medal and a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Brig. Gen. LaMontagne also works as a business coach at Rio Grande, a Berkshire Hathaway Company, and specializes in project management, people development, human resources management, distribution operations, IT Strategy, and many other challenging areas. In both of her careers, she insists that the people that depend on her drive her to do her best.

I would like to congratulate Brig. Gen. Michele K. LaMontagne, one of very few women who have been bestowed with the rank of Brigadier General, for her many years of service to our nation as a member of the Air Force and her continued commitment as a member of the New Mexico Air National Guard.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the Chamber on Mon-

day, February 5. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call votes 51 and 52.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROTECTING INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS FROM DISCRIMINATION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Protecting Independent Contractors from Discrimination Act to extend to independent contractors the same federal anti-discrimination protections enjoyed by employees. My bill would extend the antidiscrimination protections of the following statutes, which apply to employees, to independent contractors: Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 505 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008.

In a Bureau of Labor Statistics 2005 analysis of the American workforce, approximately seven percent were considered independent contractors. That number has surely only grown in the 13 years since that analysis with the growth of the so-called "gig economy." These workers, who often do the same work as employees, have almost none of the protections guaranteed to employees, including health insurance, collective bargaining, retirement security and even antidiscrimination. My bill focuses only on the employment discrimination, such as discrimination based on race, age and gender, from which every worker is entitled to be free.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF REP. CARLOS TRUJILLO TO SERVE AS U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE ORGANIZATION OF THE AMERICAN STATES

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the appointment of my good friend, Florida State Representative Carlos Trujillo, to serve as the United States Ambassador to the Organization of the American States.

In the Florida Legislature, Carlos serves as the Chair of the Appropriations Committee and Alternating Chair of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee where he executes his kind approach and strong leadership. I had the privilege to serve alongside Carlos in the Florida Legislature, and witnessed firsthand how his straightforward approach earned him respect from both sides of the aisle.

I was pleased to hear of his recent appointment by President Trump as Ambassador to the Organization of the American States. I can assure you that he will do well in advancing the American principles of freedom and pros-

perity on the global stage. His background in law and his natural talent for negotiating ensure that for him, success is inevitable.

Carlos is a family man, and his success is strongly supported by a strong, loving family consisting of his wife Carmen and his children Carlos Manuel, Isabella Alba, Juan Pablo, and Felipe Andres.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to congratulate Florida State Representative, and my friend, Carlos Trujillo on his appointment to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the Organization of the American States.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EMILY ANNE STAPLES TUTTLE

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Emily Anne Staples Tuttle. Emily Anne passed away on January 13th at age 88. Born May 3, 1929, she is warmly remembered by her three children, Missy, Kathryn, and Gregory, four stepsons and 16 grandchildren and step-grandchildren as a beloved wife, mother and grandmother. Emily Anne's family and many friends will gather on February 12th, to celebrate her remarkable life and legacy.

Emily Anne was also a bold community leader who led by example. After a career in business, she became the first woman member of the Democratic Farmer Labor Party to be elected to the State Senate in 1976. As a legislator, she distinguished herself as a trailblazer for gender equality and a champion for underserved communities. Following her legislative service, she was elected as a Hennepin County Commissioner, served as a candidate for Lt. Governor in 1990. Later she served as an advisor to Governor Jesse Ventura. Throughout her career in public service, she demonstrated a steadfast commitment to excellence in all she did.

Her dedication to serving others continued long after her government service, and is defined by her drive to promote women, education, health care and the arts. Among the many institutions and organizations she helped to found and sustain were the first Minnesota Women's Political Caucus, the first Women's Institute for Social Change and the United Nations Association of Minnesota. She was active with numerous boards and organizations, including the University of Minnesota, the Guthrie Theater and Abbot Northwestern Hospital Foundation.

It was a pleasure to know and work with Emily Anne. I valued our friendship and was always grateful for the many kindnesses she showed me and my fellow women elected officials. She truly was one of a kind and will be deeply missed.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the remarkable life of Emily Anne Staples Tuttle.

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND
EARL WILLIAMS, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished athlete, educator, spiritual leader, and dear friend of longstanding, Reverend Earl Williams, Jr. A memorial service will be held in his honor on Thursday, February 7, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at Disciples of Jesus Ministries located at 228 Augusta Avenue in Thomasville, Georgia.

Earl was born in Thomasville, Georgia in 1931, to the late Billy and Flossie Adams-Williams. A product of Thomas County School System, he graduated from Douglass High School in 1953 and went on to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Social Science from Fort Valley State University (then College) and a Master's Degree in Administration from Valdosta State University.

In 1953, he played baseball in the Negro National League with Jacksonville Eagles before signing a professional contract with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1955, and playing in both the Mid-Western and Pennsylvania Leagues. After retiring from baseball, he became the assistant baseball coach at Fort Valley State University and a scout for the Baltimore Orioles.

In addition to being an admired athlete, Earl was also an influential educator. In 1971, he served as a teacher and later as the assistant principal at Magnolia-Chappelle Middle School (then Magnolia Junior High School), before being promoted to the role of principal in 1972. After the closing of the campus in 1990, he transitioned to Central Middle School, where he served as the principal, until his retirement in 2000.

A trailblazer offirsts, Earl was the first African-American President of G.A.E. (Georgia Association of Educators) of Thomas County, the first African-American City Commissioner of Thomasville in 1982 (re-elected in 1984), the first African-American Mayor of Thomasville in 1986 (re-elected in 1988) and the first African-American Chairman of the Salvation Army. In addition to those milestones, when he served our nation honorably in the United States Marine Corps (USMC) at Camp Lejeune, he continued to play baseball and became the first African-American to play on a USMC Base traveling team. He was also the Grand Inspector General of the S.P. Jones Masonic Lodge No. 118 and a longtime member of the Albany Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

Furthermore, he received numerous awards including G.A.E. Administrator of the Year; Salvation Army Man of the Year; an Honorary Doctor of Law Degree from Faith College; NAACP; inductions into the Thomasville-Thomas County Sports Hall of Fame, the Fort Valley State University Alumni Hall of Fame; a Distinguished Service Award from Thomasville/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce and Outstanding Service Award which I had the pleasure of presenting to him.

Earl accomplished much throughout his life, but none of this would have been possible

without the love and support of his late wife, Faye, his five children, his nine grandchildren, and the countless others who impacted his life over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the more than 730,000 residents of the Second Congressional District of Georgia in extending our gratitude for the life and legacy of Reverend Earl Williams, Jr. and our sincere condolences to his family and friends during this difficult time. I pray that we may all be comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead. He leaves behind a great legacy in service to his beloved family and to all those whose lives he touched through his kindness and generosity.

RECOGNIZING ARLETTE GOMEZ AND GISELLE TOVAR

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Arlette Gomez and Giselle Tovar, two students at Johnson High School in my home of Gainesville. Recently, these two young women put on an event for local foster children in order to encourage foster children and families.

As members of the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America Club in their school, they wanted to take on a project that would allow them to help children in the Gainesville area. After researching the county's foster care system, these two students decided to work on a project that would prioritize foster children.

On January 20, Arlette and Giselle hosted "A Luau to Foster Joy" at Johnson High School, an event designed to cultivate friendships among the children in attendance. Additionally, the event helped raise awareness of the county's foster care system.

In Hall County, there are currently 270 children in foster care with only 60 families willing to welcome them into their homes. By hosting this event, Arlette and Giselle hope to inspire more families to open their doors to children in need.

Northeast Georgia is proud to have students like Arlette and Giselle, who aspire to make a difference in our corner of the world. I wish these two young women the best as they continue their studies and work to highlight the local foster care system.

STRENGTHENING PROTECTIONS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFICIARIES ACT OF 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2018

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I strongly commend Ranking Member LARSON and Chairman JOHNSON on their bipar-

tisan bill to dramatically improve the Social Security Representative Payee program. We have a responsibility to ensure that this system is strong and fair to protect our vulnerable citizens. In addition to the multiple improvements in oversight and quality, I want to thank Representatives LARSON and JOHNSON for including provisions to improve the Rep Payee program for foster youth for which I advocated.

Currently, when foster youth receive Social Security benefits because they are disabled or their parent is deceased, disabled, or retired, it is common practice for State child welfare agencies to take the children's benefits for state revenue rather than preserving these funds for the youth's current or future needs. We have very poor understanding of who serves as representative payees for foster youth and whether they conserve the funds for these youth. This bill requires long-overdue data coordination between the Social Security Administration and state foster care programs. Requiring this data coordination is critical to ensuring that we know who is serving in the important fiduciary role for foster youth. Right now, we have no clear understanding of the number of foster youth with representative payees, whether those payees are state agencies or family members, and whether the funds are conserved for foster youth or used to plug holes in state budgets.

Just last month, the Social Security Advisory Board recommended improving the Representative Payee Program related to foster youth. The Board pointed out that state foster care agencies routinely are assigned automatically as the payee without any analysis if there is a better choice available. The Board highlighted that there can be an inherent conflict of interest in designating a state entity as payee given that the interests of foster care programs may conflict with the interests of the foster youth. The data required by this bill will help Social Security better focus on payee determination for foster youth to ensure that the payee will act in the best interest of the child. Further, it will provide data to help us understand how often state agencies are serving in this capacity and how they are using these funds. To advance this understanding, the bill requires a GAO study on minor beneficiaries in foster care and their representative payees.

In addition, this bill protects foster youth from overpayment errors made by the state. Under current law, if an overpayment occurs and the state foster care agency is the beneficiary, the foster youth is responsible for repaying the overpayment. This bill includes a protection so that if a state agency is the representative payee and an overpayment is made, the state and not the foster youth is responsible for the overpayment the state received.

These improvements are critical to improving the representative payee program for vulnerable foster youth. I am grateful to Ranking Member LARSON and Chairman JOHNSON for working to strengthen the Representative Payee program to protect vulnerable citizens and for including these significant protections and transparency provisions to support foster youth.